



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of the TAMAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Incorporated 30 November 1984 – Venice, Florida
Mailing Address: 1419 E. Manasota Beach Rd., Englewood, FL 34223-6341
W4AC Repeater – 146.805 MHz(-) w/100 Hz PL
Web Site – <http://tamiamiarc.org>



-- APRIL 2010 --

-- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE --

It's been like "old home week" recently for me. My oldest son David and his wife, Marcela, have returned to their Venice home for a six-month, or so, break from their outreach work in Indonesia. My youngest son, Stew, is also here after a month in Haiti, where he was a volunteer installing water treatment units for the earthquake victims. And my daughter, Leah, is also down for a short visit. Add in my usual involvement with sick computers and tending to the W4AC repeaters, you can see where I've been kept busy. But, it's also a learning process!

73 to All de Stew-W4MO

-- APRIL MEETING --

Our meeting will start at **6:00 PM** on Tuesday, **06 April 2010** in the Meeting Room of the Venice Public Library, 300 South Nokomis Avenue. After the business meeting, the video "Desecheo Island DXpedition 2009 – K5D; so rare...so near...yet so far" will be shown. This US possession in the Caribbean, yet "off limits" for US citizens and highly desired by hams around the world was finally activated, yielding almost 117,000 QSOs. Come witness this major DX operation--almost in our backyard.

-- THINKING "DIGITAL" --



Bob Avrutik-N1RA, assisted by Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF presented their program, "The Latest Digital Modes," at our March meeting.

-- CONGRATULATIONS BERNIE!! --



Croft Taylor-VE3CT presents a QCWA 75-Year Service Award to Bernie Holtman-W4GO, while Mary Elizabeth looks on, at the March Suncoast Chapter luncheon/meeting.

-- SHARKS TOOTH FESTIVAL 10K RUN --

This year the Venice Sharks Tooth Festival will take place 09-11 April from the grounds of the Venice Airport. Over the past four years, the TARC has operated Special Event Station K4S during the event. This year, there is an opportunity for TARC members to provide some additional input/assistance to the Festival.

This year, the Inaugural Sharks Tooth 10K Run will take place at 7:15 AM on Saturday, 10 April. The fees the runners pay to participate will go to the benefit of Sarasota County Special Olympics—as do the fees from the Festival. The organizer of the run has now invited as many radio operators as possible to be stationed along the (6.2-mile) route of the run to alert the EMT's of any runners who may be in trouble and need assistance. How many TARC members are willing to help this worthy cause? (If everyone who comes to the TARC breakfasts showed up, we would have plenty of operators!)

Time is short, and there are details to be worked out. But, we can do it if we pull together. Let's show that TARC members have what it takes! More details at our April meeting.

TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Minutes of the Meeting
02 March 2010

President Stew Haag-W4MO called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM and, following a flag salute, introductions were made all around. Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF from Sheldon, CT; Jack-KB1CSS and Bernie Garneau-KB1PNY from North Port, Vic Ouellette-K1CGI from Sarasota, and John VanSchoor-W2NKL from Sarasota, and Joe Vann from North Port were welcomed as visitors.

MINUTES – Secretary Jack Sproat-W4JS asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the 02 February 2010 meeting as published in the March 2010 issue of *The Communicator*. Dil Kay-W8DIL so moved, seconded by Croft Taylor-VE3CT, and passed.

CORRESPONDENCE – There being no correspondence, the Sign-Up Sheet to assist with our 09-11 April K4S operation from the Sharks Tooth Festival was circulated for additional volunteers.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Treasurer Don Jansen-KI4VGE reported that the starting balance was \$1703.81. Receipts were \$25.00 from the February 50/50 and \$60.00 from 2010 membership dues payments, totaling \$85.00. Expenses were \$14.34 for DayStar Internet service at the repeater site. The 02 March 2010 ending balance is \$1774.47. Guenther Hennig-AJ4QX moved to approve the report, seconded by Don Gray-WD7A, and passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE – Stew-W4GO and Jack-W4JS offered comments to all regarding the sudden passing of Linda Marchese, wife of Bob-K1NOK exactly one month ago. Services were held in Massachusetts, attended by over 200 people, including a son of Peter Pesa-N4RD.

VE TESTING – Jack-W4JS reported that our next regularly scheduled VE session will be at 10 AM on 13 March.

REPEATER/TECHNICAL – Stew reported that all modes on our new 2-meter analog/digital W4AC Repeater are currently operational. In addition, a new digital/analog repeater is operational on 444.100 MHz. Sometime in the future, the respective heights of the 146/444 antennas will be reversed to further enhance the longer range of the 444 repeater.

CLUB PROPERTY – No inventory changes.

PUBLICITY/MEMBERSHIP – Don-KI4VGE reported that we now have 99 members, includ-

ing seven Life Members, 11 First-Year Free members, and two new members for 2010.

NET OPERATIONS – Net Manager Bob Murphy-WA1UHG was not present. We will continue holding our Tuesday Simplex Net on 146.580 MHz until we see if interference does develop.

LIAISON TO EARS – Konrad Owens-WA3RRS was not present.

LIAISON TO QCWA – Jack-W4JS stated that the 03 February luncheon/meeting of Suncoast Chapter 53 was well attended by 38 members/spouses/friends in attendance. Tomorrow, 03 March the Chapter will meet at 11:30 AM at Denny's on Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota. Bob Avrutik-N1RA and Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF will present a program on "The Latest Digital Modes." All are welcome.

OLD BUSINESS – Stew-W4MO has not yet been able to contact the owner regarding a new lease agreement for use of the room and tower at our W4AC repeater site.

Jon Hamlet-W4ZW provided updates on our current relationships with organizations and schools.

SERC – Jon reported that SERC had declined to provide communications support for the Inaugural Sharks Tooth 10K run scheduled for 7:15 AM on 10 April. As such, Jon questioned whether TARC members would be willing to assist. No definitive response was forthcoming.

Riverview High School – Nothing to report at this time. Pine View School – Finished the second series of scholarship applications to the Foundation for Amateur Radio a today's PVSARC meeting. General Class studies are underway, with testing to be held later this month. A local TV channel plans to make and show a 1/2 –hour program about the PVSARC.

Sarasota Military Academy – In cooperation with George Becht-N2SQ, there are now nine students and one teacher studying for General Class license exams. George and Jon installed the SMARC station the previous Saturday.

Suncoast Polytechnical High School – Nothing to report at this time.

Riverview High School – Nothing to report at this time.

NEW BUSINESS – The subject of TARC sponsoring a scholarship for graduating Seniors holding Amateur Radio licenses was raised. Stew

See **MINUTES**, pg. 4

CURRENT/PENDING DX ACTIVITY & PROPAGATION HIGHLIGHTS

CURRENT and/or SCHEDULED DX ACTIVITY										
COUNTRY – CALL SIGN	ACTIVITY PERIOD	BEARING	HF BANDS and BEST OPENING TIMES (GMT)							
			80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
Maldives – 8Q7IA; SSB, CW, PSK	Now to 18 May	41	--	23-02	--	17-21	16-20	--	--	--
Kenya – 5Z4/LA9PF; 100w, 3 el yagi or loop	Now to 11 May	76	23-04	22-05	22-01	17-00	15-22	15-22	19-21	NO
Malawi – 7Q7PF; 100w, 3 el yagi or loop	Now to 11 May	90	23-04	22-05	22-02	18-21	15-17	16-18	NO	NO
Willis Is – VK9WBM; QRV in free time	Now to 01 May	271	07-12	06-13	10-13	02-04	21-02	22-23	22-23	NO
Uganda – 5X7JD; ++, 100w, vertical	Now to 30 April	77	--	22-05	--	18-00	--	--	--	--
Solomon Is – H44MS	Now to 20 April	275	07-12	06-13	06-13	01-04	21-01	20-22	01-03	NO
East Kiribati – T32MI, SI, CI & VI	Now to 18 April	267	--	02-13	02-13	17-04	18-01	19-23	19-23	NO
Malawi – 7Q7HB; ** & digital	Now to 15 April	90	23-04	22-05	22-02	18-21	15-17	16-18	NO	NO
Ogasawara – JD1BNN and friends	Now to 12 April	317	09-12	07-13	11-14	00-02	22-23	01-03	NO	NO
Iraq – Y19PSE	03 to 11 April	43	00-03	20-04	22-04	13-20	15-19	17-17	NO	NO
Mauritius – 3B8MM; ** some SSB & digital	04 to 24 April	88	23-03	22-04	22-04	03-04	15-16	14-15	NO	NO
Wallis & Fatuna – FW???	06 to 12 April	260	05-12	04-13	03-14	18-05	19-01	19-00	20-23	21-23
Mauritius – 3B8SC; CW only	07 to 21 April	88	23-03	22-04	22-04	03-04	15-16	14-15	NO	NO
Vietnam – 3W6C; focus on low bands	10 to 18 April	348	NO	NO	NO	13-15	15-16	16-17	NO	NO
Micronesia – V63DX, V63DQ & V63T	11 to 17 April	293	07-12	06-13	11-14	01-04	20-00	21-23	NO	NO
Tuvalu – T2???	13 to 21 April	267	05-12	04-13	04-14	18-05	19-00	19-22	--	--
Albania – ZA/F4DTO & ZA/F4GFE, ++	15 to 24 April	48	23-05	22-06	21-05	12-23	17-21	17-21	NO	NO
Fiji – 3D2???	23 to 26 April	258	05-12	04-13	04-13	01-07	19-01	20-01	--	--
Bhutan – A52SW; 100w, spare time operation	23 Apr - 01 May	8	NO	NO	NO	00-03	01-03	NO	NO	NO
Mariana Is – KH0/AL5A; focus on Europe	24 to 26 April	306	08-11	07-12	10-13	12-15	21-00	02-04	02-04	NO
Palau – T88NY	27 to 29 April	307	09-11	08-12	10-12	12-15	21-02	14-15	02-04	NO
Tunisia – TS8P; All Modes	27 Apr - 04 May	57	23-05	22-07	22-06	12-01	18-21	15-23	NO	NO
Chatham Is – ZL7J	28 Apr - 03 May	230	04-12	03-12	02-05	20-04	21-02	23-02	23-01	NO

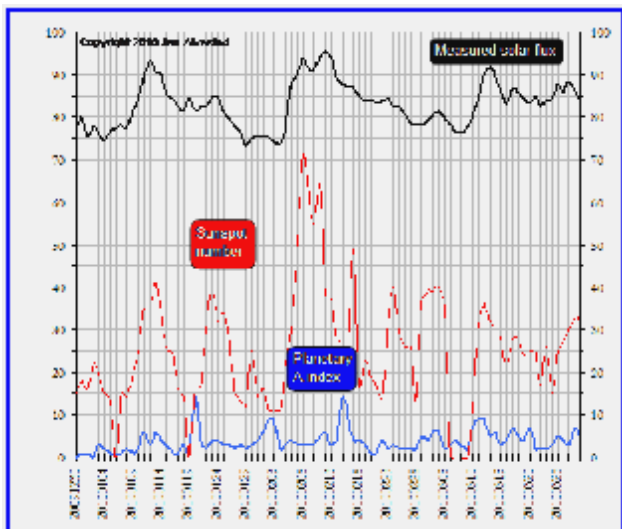
Updated 31 March 2010, based on 31 March 2010 QZ DX, 29 March 2010 *The Weekly DX* and <http://www.ng3k.com>

Notes: Time in bold = Band(s) with 75-100% opening; ??? = Call Sign not yet known; ++ = Mostly Phone; ** = Mostly CW; NO = No Opening forecast. Long Path bearings and opening times are underlined. All forecasts calculated using W6ELProp V.2.60 propagation software, available to download at <http://www.qsl.net/w6elprop/>. Solar Flux and K-index varied by date in accordance with USAF 45-Day A/P Forecast.

-- MARCH SOLAR ACTIVITY --

The Solar Flux ranged from 76 to 92 during March, with a mean value of 83.5 (vs. 69.3 for March 2009 and 72.9 for March 2008). The A-index exceeded 7 on four days. The average daily SSN was 24.1. No proton events were observed at geosynchronous orbit.

B- and C-Class flares were released periodically during the month from Sunspot Regions 1052, 1054, 1056 and 1057. These generally resulted in short-term active and isolated minor storm levels.



(Courtesy of: Jan Alvestad, <http://www.solen.info/solar/>)

-- APRIL FORECAST --

No proton events are expected at geosynchronous orbit. Moderate to high Solar Flux levels are possible 08-11 and 14-16 April. The geomagnetic field should be quiet 01-06 April with a chance of active periods 07-08 April. Quiet levels should prevail 09-30 April. April's solar flux should average 78.0.

(From NOAA Weekly Highlights and Forecasts, 30 March 2010, NOAA 27-day Space Weather Outlook Table, 30 March 2010, and 45 Day AP Forecast, USAF, 30 March 2010)

--MEET NARAN-JT1BV --



Naranbattar is active on 14.245. Look for him!

MARCH CONTESTS & ACTIVITIES

Contest/Special Event	Begin-End Times/Dates	Bands/Modes	QSO With	Exchange
Polish DX Contest	1500Z 03 April 1500Z 04 April	160 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Polish Stations Only	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
Spanish RTTY Contest	1600Z 03 April 1600Z 04 April	80 – 20 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T and Serial Number
European Spring Sprint	1600Z 10 April 1959Z 10 April	3.55, 7.025, 14.04 MHz, CW	European Stations Only	Both Calls, Serial No., Name
Japan International DX Contest	0700Z 10 April 1300Z 11 April	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Japanese Stations Only	R/S/T, CQ Zone (5 locally)
Yuri Gagarin DX Contest	2100Z 10 April 2100Z 11 April	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, ITU Zone (8 locally)
European Spring Sprint	1600Z 17 April 1959Z 17 April	3.73, 7.05, 14.25 MHz, SSB	European Stations Only	Both Calls, Serial No., Name
Serbian DX Contest	2100Z 17 April 2100Z 17 April	160 – 10 Meters CW Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, ITU Zone (8 locally)
Ten-Ten Spring CW Contest	0001Z 24 April 2359Z 25 April	10 Meters Only CW Only	Anyone; 10-10 members preferred	Call, Name, State County, 10-10 #
Polish DX RTTY Contest	1200Z 24 April 1200Z 25 April	80 – 10 Meters RTTY Only	Anyone, Anywhere	R/S/T, Serial Number
Helvetia (Swiss) Contest	1300Z 24 April 1259Z 25 April	160 – 10 Meters SSB, CW, Digi	Swiss Stations Only	R/S/(T) and Serial Number
Florida QSO Party	1600Z 24 April 2159Z 25 April	40 – 10 Meters Phone & CW	Anyone; see rules at www.floridagsoparty.org	R/S/(T), County

From ARRL "Contest Corral," April 2010 QST and April 2010 *WorldRadio Online*

MINUTES, from pg. 2

advised that the Board of Directors will discuss this subject, especially how to finance and implement such an endeavor, prior to the next membership meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR – None

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn at 6:32 PM was made by Jon Hamlet-W4ZW, seconded by Bob Avrutik-N1RA, and passed. There were 29 members and six visitors present.

PROGRAM – Bob Avrutik-N1RA and Jon Krijgsman-N1BDF presented a very informative program on "The Latest Digital Modes."

Jack Sproat-W4JS
Secretary

-- PENDING PHONE MODE CHANGES --

The FCC announced 01 April that the scheduled mandatory changeover of SSB and AM HF voice communications in the Amateur Radio Service has been delayed for one year. Originally scheduled to begin 01 April 2010, the new changes will now take effect 01 April 2011.

Under the plan, originally approved by Congress during the G. W. Bush administration, all Amateur Radio voice communication in the HF spectrum (3 – 30 MHz) will adopt digital

voice technologies, reducing the bandwidth of typical SSB from an average of 2.4 kHz to an average of 1.5 kHz. No particular protocol is specified—amateurs can use any method they desire as long as it is digital.

During the transition period, 20-meter Phone nets have been assigned temporary frequencies in the 10-meter band for their analog operations. They have also temporarily been allowed to use up to 10 kW due to limited propagation on 10 meters.

Note that 160 meters is not included in this changeover, as it—being below 3 MHz—is a MF, rather than a HF, band.

As previously announced by the ARRL, QSLs for 10-meter QSOs using the temporarily authorized higher power will not count toward DXCC. For more information regarding this matter click: <http://www.aprilfulz.gov>.

-- A JUDICIAL SENSE OF HUMOR --

Actual questions asked in court rooms:

"Were you alone or by yourself?"

"How far apart were the cars when the collision occurred?"

"Were you present when your picture was taken?"

(From Conny Humor, *Nat'l Fed. of the Blind*)

-- ANNUAL INTERNET CLEANING --

From: Kim Dereksen
Interconnected Network Maintenance Staff
Main Branch, MIT
Subject: Internet Cleaning

As many of you know, each year the Internet must be shut down for 24 hours in order to allow us to clean it. The cleaning process, which eliminates dead e-mail and inactive ftp, www and gopher sites, allows for a better-working and faster Internet.

This year, the cleaning process will take place from 12:01 a.m. GMT on April 1 until 12:01 a.m. GMT on April 2. During that 24-hour period, five very powerful Japanese built multi-lingual Internet-crawling robots (Toshiba ML-2274) situated around the world will search the Internet and delete any data that they find.

In order to protect your valuable data from deletion we ask that you do the following:

1. Disconnect all terminals and local area networks from their Internet connections.
2. Shut down all Internet servers, or disconnect them from the Internet.
3. Disconnect all disks and hard drives from any connections to the Internet.
4. Refrain from connecting any computer to the Internet in any way.
5. Avoid placing operating microwave ovens or toaster/toaster ovens near your computer modem.
6. Avoid wearing nylon (or other dielectric fiber) undergarments because of the possibility of electrical discharge.

We understand the inconvenience that this may cause some Internet users, and we apologize. However, we are certain that any inconvenience will be more than made up for by the increased speed and efficiency of the Internet, once it has been cleared of electronic flotsam and jetsam.

We thank you for your cooperation.

(From <http://www.2mets.com/april-fools/1997/Internet-cleaning.html>)

-- INFORMATION HIGHWAY CAUTION --

(The following comes from the Editor of TELECOM Digest.)

Readers, I guess by now everyone has heard about the infamous magazine article this past week which talked about new FCC regulations which "...ban speeding on the Information Highway or even driving on it while under the influence of drugs or intoxicating liquors ... and which ban any discussion of sexual matters us-

ing networks connected to the Information Highway ...". A reference telephone number was given and there have actually been a large number of angry calls to Senators and others in Washington, DC. April 1 always brings these things to the net.

(Obviously "caution" is the byword, especially on 01 April of any year.)

-- WAY TO GO, WILLIAM! --



Here's 8-year old William Ferguson, KJ4EYZ being formally presented his DXCC certificate by Virginia DX Century Club vice president Ron Young, W8RJL at their 16 March meeting. William is the son of Rich, N2XQM. His achievement makes him the youngest full member of the VaDXCC, and one of the youngest members of the DX Century Club. As an added note, William's 10-year old sister Carissa, KJ4EZA, has 82 countries worked - The DXCC desk expects to be hearing from her shortly! (Photo & details courtesy of ARRL web site, via Carl Smith-N4AA.)

We see that this young lad is off to a positive start in Ham Radio, and we wish him many years of enjoyment in this great hobby! Sure is inspirational that he has something better to do than "texting" and playing video games.

-- FOR YOUR INFORMATION --

"Despite the cost of living, have you noticed how it remains so popular?"

"Publicity: The art of putting the best feat forward." (From Corny Humor, *ibid.*)

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			r	1 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	2 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	3
4	5	6 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Meeting @ 6 PM, Venice Library	7 QCWA Lunch, 11:30 AM @ Denny's in Sarasota TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater	8 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	9 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	10 TARC VE Session @ 10:00 AM, Venice Public Library
11	12 DARN Emergency Net @ 11 AM & 7:30 PM, Starts on W4AC re- peater 146.805	13 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	14 TARC DX Net 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	15 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	16 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	17
18	19	20 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	21 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	22 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	23 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	24
25	26	27 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM TARC Net @ 7:30 PM, 146.580	28 TARC DX Net, 8 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	29 TARC Emergency Net @ 7:30 PM, W4AC Repeater 146.805	30 Breakfast @ Peach's, ± 7:30 AM	

NOTE: If the W4AC Repeater is inoperative, nets scheduled for activity on the repeater will be held on the simplex frequency of 146.580 MHz. Thanks for your cooperation.

**TAMIAMI AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name _____ Call Sign _____ Class ___ ARRL (Y/N)___

Local Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Summer Address _____ City/State _____ Zip _____

Tel. No. _____ E-Mail _____ Application Date _____

Please check activity interests: Ass't Net Control___, RFI/TVI___, VE Testing___, Training___, Packet___, RTTY___, Computers___, DXing___, Contests___, Field Day___, Publicity___, Emergency Communications___, Special Events___, VHF/UHF___, SSTV___, ATV___, Repeater___, EchoLink___, Other (specify) _____

Single Member @ \$15.00/year ___ , Family Membership @ \$20.00/year___ (\$8.00 after 30 June for remainder of calendar year. \$15.00 after 31 October grants membership through remainder of year and all of the following year.)

MAIL TO: TARC, 1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH RD, ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341

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1419 E. MANASOTA BEACH ROAD
ENGLEWOOD, FL 34223-6341**

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Editor: Jack Sproat-W4JS
Circulation: Don Jansen-KI4VGE

2009 TARC Officers

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